

Message Text

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S E C R E T RABAT 0516

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

1. IN CONTACTS JANUARY 29 WITH GENERAL MOULAY HAFID, CHIEF OF ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, I CONVEYED OUR PROPOSAL THAT KING HASSAN START OFFICIAL VISIT TO US ON APRIL 9. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN PALACE, MOULAY HAFID RESPONDED THAT KING HASSAN'S RECOVERY FROM RECENT OPERATION HAD BEEN SLOWER THAN EXPECTED. WHILE PROBLEM WAS MINOR AND THERE NO DANGER, KING, HE INDICATED, WAS STILL SUFFERING CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT. KING'S DOCTORS HAD EXAMINED HIM THOROUGHLY PREVIOUS EVENING, AND HAD BEEN RECALLED TO REVIEW CASE A SECOND TIME IN LIGHT OF SUGGESTED APRIL 9 DATE. THEY REMAINED FIRM IN THEIR DECISION THAT KING WOULD HAVE TO RECUPERATE AND COULD NOT TRAVEL UNTIL APRIL 21. THEREFORE, DATE PROPOSED BY US SIDE FOR KING'S VISIT WOULD REGRETTABLY BE TOO EARLY. KING WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO GO AHEAD WITH VISIT AND HOPED SHORT DELAY WOULD NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTY. MOULAY HAFID ADDED THAT KING HAD DIRECTED THAT I SHOULD BE BRIEFED BY KING'S PHYSICIANS ON EXACT NATURE OF MEDICAL PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH I STRESSED I TOOK MOULAY HAFID'S WORD ON THIS, HE INSISTED I SEE PHYSICIANS LATER SAME DAY.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING, DR. TOUHAMI, KING'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, TOLD ME KING HAD UNDERGONE DEEP PROCTOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AND WAS RECOVERING WELL. IN REPLY TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTION, TOUHAMI SAID THERE WAS NO MALIGNANCY OR SPECIAL PROBLEM. KING HAD BEEN ADVISED TO CANCEL ALL TRAVEL FOR THREE MONTHS, INASMUCH AS RECOVERY FROM SIMILAR OPERATION SOME YEARS AGO HAD BEEN IMPAIRED BY TRAVEL AT THAT TIME. SIGN THAT

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THINGS WERE GOING WELL WAS THAT FRENCH DOCTORS WHO HAD TREATED

KING HAD GONE BACK TO FRANCE. THEY WOULD RETURN TO RABAT IN MID-APRIL TO GIVE FINAL CLEARANCE ON KING'S RECOVERY.

3. ALSO AS RESULT OF THIS ILLNESS, KING HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RECEIVE TIME NEWSTOUR GROUP AND DAVID ROCKEFELLER, WHO VISITING MOROCCO DURING NEXT FEW DAYS AND HAD HOPED FOR AUDIENCE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KING IS NO DOUBT IN CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT, I DO NOT FORESEE ANY PROFOUND LONGER-TERM REPERCUSSIONS ON HIS ACTIVITIES STEMMING FROM THIS PROBLEM. IN VIEW OF KING'S INABILITY TO TRAVEL FOR MOMENT, HOWEVER, I HOPE WE CAN QUICKLY WORK OUT DATE FOR US VISIT IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. I WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS DETAILS FURTHER WHEN IN RETURN TO WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 1 TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS.
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